THE LATE NEWES FROM FRANCE:

Being an Important Remonstrance or admonition to *the King of* FRANCE, *concerning* the disordered affaires of that Estate at this present.

Faithfully Translated out of the French Copy.

M. D. C. XX.

An important remonſtrance or admonition to the King of France in reſpect of his Eſtate.

SIR,

I Hauing ſeene ſo much want of courage among the greateſt perſonages, as to accord ſo weakely to the continuation or perſeuerance of the diſorders of the Eſtate, without giuing your Maieſtie any information thereof, euery one of them hauing their defects or deſignes to themſelues: ſo as feare haue ſealed vp the mouthes of ſome, and an aſtoniſhment haue made luke-warme, or rather cooled the courage of others: that euen they which rule in your Counſels, yea they which deale with the affaires of your Conſcience, ſhewe their remiſſeneſſe by their ſilence, or their infidelity by their conniuence. I which haue neuer thought that an euill example being generall could ſtifle or ſuffocate the generoſity of a particular man, imitating this laſt for to diſcharge the dutie of a moſt humble

and obedient Subiect, determined with my ſelfe to preſent this diſcourſe to your Maieſty, my pen doing herein as the hand which naturally putteth foorth it ſelfe, alwaies ready to vphold the fall of the body, which being vnder the conduct of the eyes, omitteth not ſometimes to ſtumble. I am well aſſured that this my zeale is vnprofitable, and that it will be ſeen throughout all France ſooner then of your Maieſtie, whoſe eyes within this three yeares haue beene euer ſtopt, as alſo your eares as yet, which know but the ſound of one onely voice, among ſo many others which euery day bleſſe you.

SIR, I am affraid that you are ſo preoccupated with the affection of another, as that you haue not any for your ſelfe, and that you will eſteeme my boldneſſe more worthy of chaſtiſement then audience. Neuertheleſſe, I proteſt that my intention is not to bring you in hatred with them which you affect, knowing well that the fauourits of Kings, are alſo the fauourites of heauen. I demand onely but permiſsion to repreſent to you, how that Charitie well ordeined beginneth with it ſelfe, and to tell fauourits that as it is very ſeemly that your liberality be proportioned, ſo alſo it ſhould be to the purpoſe, that their deſires may haue ſome bound.

It is not (SIR) my intereſt which cauſeth me to ſpeake in this manner; it is onely the affection which I beare to your ſeruice and the publike

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good; for had not they emptied all your treſuries, as they haue done, thoſe moneyes ſhould not haue beene in my Coffers, and had they not had in their power and authority the Prouinces, and places which they haue at this preſent within this Kingdome, they ſhould not haue beene in mine; and had they not had all the charges and dignitie, wherewith your Maieſtie haue honoured them, I ſhould not haue had any more priuiledge. But I returne to you.

SIR: From whom this Intereſt is gone, and not from my ſelfe, yea in ſuch a ſort, that I am well aſſured of the ſhipwrack of your Kingdome, if you your ſelfe very ſpedily catcheth not hold of the Helme, which you haue left too long a time in the hands of a man, who hath alwaies made his owne courſe, without euer hauing made yours.

You may know it eaſily, if it pleaſe you to conſider how that *Monſieur de Luyne*, being but within this three yeares a ſimple Captaine of the Lorwe, and Generall of the Ordinaries, is become the abſolute Heire of the *Marciall de Anere*, whoſe greatneſſe and wealth your Maieſtie hath beene only held capable; moreouer he is the great Faulconer of France, the firſt Gentleman of your Chamber, Leiftenant generall in the gouerment of Picardie, as he is of Amiens, Han la Fere, which be the moſt important places of that Prouince, yea of your Realme, and which hath held ſo

longe time in eſcheat all the powers of Spaine: as within two yeares he is becom a Duke and Peere of France, a recompence which is not dew but to Lords onely; who are growne auncient by the exploites of Armes, for the preſeruation of the eſtate; he is alſo allied to one of the moſt Illuſtrious familes of your Realme, and which is in your owne blod on the ſide of *Nauarr*, and of the Countrie of Nants: hee hath cauſed further more to be added to himſelfe the Ile of France, and the townes of Soiſſons, Noyon, Channy, Concy, Fonyeres, and Concreneaw, and of late the Countrie of Maine.

But Sir, ouer and beſides all the great guiftes, which he hath receaued from you, and the prope of one ſo puiſſant an alliance, you haue giuen to the Lord of Cadnet, the Lieftenantſhip of the King in Picardie, and thoſe of the Baily-weekes of Eureux, & of Vernueile in Normandie, you haue giuen him Amboiſe, you haue made him Marſhall of France, without euer drawing his Sword, you your ſelfe haue procured him to be eſpowſed to the Heire of Vidame of Amiens, promiſed before to the Duke of Fronſac, ſonne of the Earle of Saint Paule, to whome you haue giuen the inheritance of the Caſtle d'Hierre, and a *100000.* pounds of damages, for to depart and relinquiſh that alliance; you haue aſſured her a dowry of a Million of pounds vpon the monyes of Salt, which be the moſt cleare of your Reuenew; you haue

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bought for him on the Lord of Branthe, the Lieftenantſhip of your Light-Horſe, for to take it away from the Lord *de la Curee*, a good ſeruant of your Fathers, and whoſe fidelitie you ought to be beter aſured then of a new come, you haue deliuered ouer to him the managing of the monies of your ordinary expences, he is euer courting the Heire of Luxembourge, from whoſe Houſe there hath proceeded ſeauen Emperous of freſh memorie, you haue procured him the gouerment of Calis, which is worth *400000.* Crownes, Bouloyne hath beene bought for *53000.* Crownes, they are at this preſent about to aſſault Montreuill, in ſuch ſort that this Prouince will belong more to them then to you, all this which they practiſe is both to the coſt and preiudice of your Maieſtie Crowne.

I preſent theſe things vnto you Sir, for feare that you ſhould be like vnto them, which being walking all a whole day within a Gallerie, thinke not that they haue made a great Iourney, becauſe they haue not drawne them ſelues a farre off, and that they haue not ſtirred out of the roome: euen ſo your Maieſtie ſtanding one paſtimes, and without conſidering them a forehand, conſider not of that which you doe. It is ſaid that you haue aſured *Monſieur de Luyne* of the charge of Conſtable, the Secretarie of his Cabinet, being already within the Campes and Armies of Fraunce although that neither the maſter nor ſeruant haue

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euer beene trayned or haue had any capacitie or experience, to exercise such estates. It is also a long time that he hath dealt for the gouerment of Britaigne, as if this supreame honor, whereof the mirth consists in the charge that it hath, and not in the title, which he only wanteth, it cannot be the least end of the function of a meane Gentle man who seeth himselfe in the place, where the thoughts of persons of the same rancke be in the world, neuer raise themselus vnto, yet with al this Sir, you are furthermore importuned to buy for him the gouernment with the hauen of Blauet, & the Lieftenancie of the King, of Branthe: ought not you to feare, that as they are lodged within a room ouer you within your Lowr, that they haue also the same aboue wthin your estate? it greatly imports your Maiestie not to leaue established in so many Prouinces, one Gouernor, & one Kings Lieftenant, as the bloud and Common intrest so straightly binde as these, nor to bestow on them places of so great consequence as Blauet & Concreneaw which make them Maisters of the Sea, and principally holding alreadie the Keies of the Riuers, to wit, Amboyse and Nantes: putting into all the fortresses which they keepe, Brother in Lawes, Nephewes, Cousins, all new men and without desert, which acknowledge no man but *Maister de Luyne* for their Benefactor. All these Sir, threaten your Maiestie & estate of great danger: but who will doubt that it is not so? seeing that

that there is not any thing falne within this three yeares which presently they haue not deuoured? there hath not beene any thing voyde by death within this three yeares, but it hath beene for them, and if any other haue drawne profit thereby, they haue caused them to serue, as the builders doe the trauerses to a Vault, for to vphold the waight thereof, the which they take away presently after when the Vault is fastened. If the reason be demaunded of so prodigious a fortune, what other thing can be said but that they are the artisans themselues, and not you? Sir, which lay al the affaires of the Realm vpon them, for to follow the pleasure of hunting, without taking heed how that whilst you are a hunting, they hunt you; and whilst that you be a Hawking, they make their flight at you and your goods, and the most beautifull Lillie of your Crowne; God, of whom you are the Image vpon Earth casteth alwayes his Eies vpon all things in this Vniuerse, without absolutly leauing them to the conduct of Nature, which is a most wise lesson for you to learne: Sir, that you are bound to gouerne those things your self which are committed vnto you, with casting the care thereof vpon another.

The last of our first race of our Kings, for to be discharged of the affaires of the *Maires de Palais*, and for hauing permitted that *Charles Martell* should be ioyned to the Title of the Prince of France, in conclusion could not let but that *Pipin*

le Bref, would vsurpe the treasuries, and in the end the name and title of King, : *Chilperik* hauing bin confined into a Monastery, and not long after, by the great dignities which *Hugnes le grand* possessed, and by the good deedes of the Successors of *Pepin* he aspired to Tyrannie : as Duke of France, he had the managing of Armes, and as *Maire du Palais*, the affaires of estate, by this meanes he made himself chiefe of the confederacy against *Charles the simple* and the raignes of *Lewes* ouer the Sea, and of *Lothaire*, hee cast the foundation of his vsurpation, seruing himselfe with the same goods which he had receiued of the King, and although those later Kings held his greatnes in suspect, he becam so puissant, he maintayned it himselfe mauger them all, leauing *Hugh Capet* heire of his credit and his offices, who succeeded by that meanes without any contradiction to the Crowne.

These domesticke examples are most true, from whence may be drawne this instruction, that no man which euer became more puisant then the King within his owne estate, without hauing aspired to Tyranie, and that infallibly they which may doe all that which they will, will also doe all that they can. Kings are not Kings, but in case their Subiects depend of them and not they of their Subiects, yet they disordered like railers of Soueraignes are as the feathers which the Eagle pulleth from her selfe, wherwith the arrowes are feathered which are shot at him, you be at the

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to make a tryall therof, Sir, yet the agnition of them to whom you haue done good is not infinit, as your bounty haue bin towards them. For if ambition blinds them ſo much, as to loſe once the memory of the obligations in which they are bound to you & that they ſhould aſpire to attempt all that they may, you ſhall finde that your Kingdome cut to the hart; the Iſle of France (as it hath bene already ſhewen you) being in their power, with the townes of Couſſy, Chauny, Noyon, and Soyſſons, the countrey of Maine, and the greateſt part of Britaigny, there remaineth not a place which is of force in Picardie, Cadnet, trafficketh for Peronne, Montdidier, and Roy, becauſe of the correſpondency on his part with Chauny for his wifes ſake; they haue the towne and Citadell of Amiens, and Corbie at their pleaſure, and all to Han, Calais, Montreuill, and Bolongue. You haue not any Subiect in that Prouince, but is either their allies, or vaſſals. *La Baſtille* is to them a Citadel within your capitall towne, and the Louvre it ſelfe, whereof they are appropriated themſelues, there wil not be one aſſured retrait for your ſelfe, they goe filling the olde Regiments with their owne people, and the arme of your Guards, of thoſe which haue bene ſo long time with *Monſieur le Prince au Bois de Vincenes*, and your light Horſes, may follow the fortune of him which commadeth them.

The miniſters of Eſtate applieth themſelues to the times for to accommodate their own affaires: that which reſteth is the vigour within your Parliament which may eaſily bee ſtifled, either by their threatnings or faire promiſes: Your Treaſuries are dried vp, for hauing at one blow bought vp ſo many offices, places & gouernments, which they enioy; ſo that whatſoeuer come caſually, falleth into their coffers: in ſuch ſort that of one *Charles d' Albert* may be eaſily made *Charles d' Albret*, euen as there was made one *Capet* to attaine to the ſecond race of our Kings.

But let vs apprehend all things at the beſt, let vs ſuppoſe, as I doubt not thereof, but that all the places which they hold bee yours aſſured: that their frugality be a bottoue reſerued for you, and that there is no other conſpiracy among them but onely to ſerue you well: Yet ſo is it that they only cannot receiue ſo many fauours from you, without an extreme diſcontent of the great ones, who will neuer ſuffer it without murmuring, that their fortune onely vſurpe the recompence of the vertue of others.

Sir, the conſequence thereof is moſt dangerous, and we neede not goe to ſeeke other examples then within your Kingdome, for all the troubles which are happened ſince your Coronation, haue drawne their beginning from the like. Your Maieſtie being aggreeued at the ſame thing which the Queene your mother, wherein you ſurpaſſe

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her, for raiſing men too high to the preiudice of the generality of your eſtate. The Nobility can they without an extreame diſpleaſure ſee their inferiours aboue them. They, ſay I, to whom the Chamber of preſence is more difficult to haue acceſſe vnto, then your Cabinet is to others; and who for all the ſeruices cannot be aduanced without haueing before dipped in the bane of the *Marſhall de Ancres* by his helpes only, not by counſell nor valour? and to refuſe to doe it, is the worſe, for then a man ſhall be as a dead perſon? But foraſmuch as wherein they haue ſerued you, as to the contrary they haue bene the cauſe that your royall houſe hath bin ſtained with the bloud of a man, whoſe life ought to haue bene expoſed to the publick vengeance, as was his carkaſe. The ancient Marſhals, Dukes, and Peeres of France, ſeeing that from a Falconer they doe mount to Crown offices, will not they themſelues become Faulkoners, great men in eſteeme, and ſmall ones being oppoſants the one to the other, as are the two buckets of a Well, for the one is neuer raiſed vp but the other falleth down: euery generation imagine a corruption, and the alteration of all naturall things proceed from that of the Elements, who chaſeth the one the other, & which let them remaine out of their appointed place; the place of the leaſt is vnder the biggeſt, and it cannot keep it ſelfe aloft, but by violence. The hands cannot performe the office of the feet without debaſing the head, nor the feet the office of the hands with

out troubling the naturall oeconomy : and I will say furthermore it seemeth that there is the same relation from subiects to their Prince, as from all the parts of the body to the head, which cannot appoint the nourishment ordained for the whole vpon one only, without finding the others disobeying: an example which may learne your Maiestie to limit your good deeds, and iudiciously to attend vnto the common interest of your subiects for feare that your extraordinary fauour to one onely cause not a reuolt of so many braue men, who haue so worthily serued the late King in his armies, where they haue receiued the wounds, which are as so many mouths which recommend the price of their blood, and of their seruices. It is true that Master *de Luyne* may bee Constable, and their is great appearance thereof; for asmuch as, that euery eldest brother which leaueth to his yongest an office of the Marshall of France, is assured of some better thing: as they would yeelde submissiuly your armies to him, whom they shold see, that the first Sword which he should drawe, shall be that which belong to the Constable.

This dignity, Sir, is not giuen to them which deserue them by seruices, and by this meanes haue they possession of Guesclin, of Cliffon, and they of the house of *Mont Morency*, *Constantine le Grand* neuer conferred any dignity belonging to the Empire, but to those which had made themselues capable therof by feates of armes, rewarding others with mony and offices mearly mercenary. If your Maiestie

Maiestyhad done the same, you had not seen these last troubles of Guyenna. The Churchmen of *Beard* should haue possibly enioyed the patrimony of St. *Peter*: the Hugonots could haue had a bodie assembled at Loudun, who treateth with you at this present by Deputies, as other Princes doe by Embassadors; imagining with themselues that there is no appearance to make them obey, your Maiestie hauing put the weapons into the hands of each Subiects, the names of whom seem to be offensiue, by the diffidence that they haue of their fidelitie in treating with them for the places and gouernments which they hold, and others by the contempt which is made of them, and by the reason of the forgetfulnesse that is shewen of them by their seruices past.

In the name of God, Sir; giue order for it, before the discontentment passe farther vnto a disobedience, this euill is not without a remedie, so that you your selfe take the helme of the affaires into your owne hands, and that you cause to be made a review of things which haue past within this three years in your estate, they to whom you haue done so much good, might be ashamed to see themselues more puissant then you, & when they shal see, that you perceiue the miserie and necessitie in which they haue brought you, they shall be bound to restore to you againe part of that which they haue taken from you, & to restore into your dispose the gouerment, places and charges, for which

out troubling the naturall oeconomy : and I will ſay furthermore it ſeemeth that there is the ſame relation from ſubiects to their Prince, as from all the parts of the body to the head, which cannot appoint the nouriſhment ordained for the whole vpon one only, without finding the others diſobeying : an example which may learne your Maieſtie to limit your good deeds, and iudiciouſly to attend vnto the common intereſt of your ſubiects for feare that your extraordinary fauour to one onely cauſe not a reuolt of ſo many braue men, who haue ſo worthily ſerued the late King in his armies, where they haue receiued the wounds, which are as ſo many mouths which recommend the price of their blood, and of their ſeruices. It is true that Maſter *de Luyne* may bee Conſtable, and their is great appearance thereof ; for aſmuch as, that euery eldeſt brother which leaueth to his yongeſt an office of the Marſhall of France, is aſſured of ſome better thing : as they would yeelde ſubmiſſiuly your armies to him, whom they ſhold ſee, that the firſt Sword which he ſhould drawe, ſhall be that which belong to the Conſtable.

This dignity, Sir, is not giuen to them which deſerue them by ſeruices, and by this meanes haue they poſſeſſion of Gueſclin, of Cliſſon, and they of the houſe of *Mont Morency*, *Conſtantine le Grand* neuer conferred any dignity belonging to the Empire, but to thoſe which had made themſelues capable therof by feates of armes, rewarding others with mony and offices mearly mercenary. If your

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which they are vnfit, which occaſions haue procured you the diſcontentment and the enuie of al France, it may ſuffice that they reſerue to themſelues, the pray of the *Martiall de Ancre*, & their other offices, which belong not to the Crowne, for to be therby ingaged in your good will, and then will ceaſe the plaints of Subiects, you may rule your fauours according to the merrit, ſeruices, and condicions of the perſons, and not according to your owne inclination, the Sun which is the eye of the World, as you be of France, communicateth his beames to all things on the Earth, but the Ceder receiues them ſooner then the Iſop, and the hearbe which is dedicated to the Sunne, hath not his ſtem more lifted vp then that of the Baytree, nor the flowers which follow his motion, haue no better odour, nor more beauty, then the Roſes, Violets, or Lilies, ſuch is the order of the Vniuerſe; ſuch ought to be this of France, the good of which hath cauſed me to vndertake this diſcourſe, in which I proteſt that my Penne hath beene dipped in no wiſe, for any particular hatred, and that I haue broken ſilence only to warne and admoniſh your Maieſtie, as the ſon of Creſus, for to ſaue his Father, for which I aske not any recompence, the onely reward of good actions conſiſting in the ſatisfaction, that he is to doe by his duty.

FINIS.